

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera that creates an image file by processing image data obtained through an image-capturing operation, comprising:
 - an image-capturing unit that generates the image data by capturing a subject image;
 - a data extraction unit that sets an image plane range corresponding to an image portion of the image data and extracts data of the image portion in the image plane range;
 - a data insertion unit that writes data of a predetermined specific image over the image plane range of the image data and generates data of a processed image; and
 - a file creation unit that creates an image file by storing the data of the processed image into an image data area of the image file, which is referenced as image data data, and storing the data of the image portion into a non-image data area of the image file, which is not referenced as image data data, wherein:
 - the file creation unit includes an encryption unit that encrypts the data of the image portion and stores the data encrypted by the encryption unit into the non-image data area.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein:
 - the predetermined specific image includes information related to copyright.
7. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein:

the predetermined specific ~~information~~ image includes at least information indicating a photographer name or a photographing date/time.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for restoring an image comprising steps of:

obtaining the image file created in an electronic camera according to claim ~~2~~ 1;

reading out the data of the processed image from the image data area of the image file;

reading out the encrypted data of the image portion from the non-image data area of the image file;

obtaining the data of the image portion by decrypting the encrypted data of the image portion;

specifying the data of the predetermined specific image in the data of the processed image; and

writing the data of the image portion over the specified data of the predetermined specific image.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium ~~computer program product~~ having an image processing program for restoring an image, the image processing program comprising instruction codes of:

obtaining the image file created in an electronic camera according to claim ~~2~~ 1;

reading out the data of the processed image from the image data area of the image file;

reading out the encrypted data of the image portion from the non-image data area of the image file;

obtaining the data of the image portion by decrypting the encrypted data of the image portion;

specifying the data of the predetermined specific image in the data of the processed image; and

writing the data of the image portion over the specified data of the predetermined specific image.

14. (Canceled)

15. (New) An electronic camera that creates an image file, which is a JPEG file, by processing image data obtained through an image-capturing operation, comprising:

an image-capturing unit that generates the image data by capturing a subject image;

an image compression unit that generates compressed data by executing image compression on the image data generated by the image-capturing unit, the compressed data including RST marker codes;

a data extraction unit that sets an image plane range corresponding to an image portion of the image data, selects data corresponding to the image plane range from the compressed data based upon the RST marker codes, and extracts the selected data as data of the image portion;

a data insertion unit that writes compressed data of a predetermined specific image over the data corresponding to the image plane range of the compressed data and generates data of a processed image; and

a file creation unit that creates the image file by storing the data of the processed image into a frame, which is an image area of the JPEG file and is referenced as

image data, and storing the data of the image portion into an application segment, which is a non-image area of the JPEG file and is not referenced as image data, wherein:

the file creation unit includes an encryption unit that encrypts the data of the image portion and stores the data encrypted by the encryption unit into the non-image area.

16. (New) An electronic camera that creates an image file, which is a JPEG file, by processing image data obtained through an image-capturing operation, comprising:

an image-capturing unit that generates the image data by capturing a subject image;

an image compression unit that generates compressed data by executing image compression on the image data generated by the image-capturing unit;

a marker code insertion unit that inserts RST marker codes, which indicate positions within an image plane in the image data, into the compressed data generated by the image compression unit;

a data extraction unit that sets an image plane range corresponding to an image portion of the image data, selects data corresponding to the image plane range from the compressed data based upon the RST marker codes, and extracts the selected data as data of the image portion;

a data insertion unit that writes compressed data of a predetermined specific image over the data corresponding to the image plane range of the compressed data and generates data of a processed image; and

a file creation unit that creates the image file by storing the data of the processed image into a frame, which is an image area of the JPEG file and is referenced as image data, and storing the data of the image portion into an application segment, which is non-image area of the JPEG file and is not referenced as image data, wherein:

the file creation unit includes an encryption unit that encrypts the data of the image portion and stores the data encrypted by the encryption unit into the non-image area.

17. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 15, wherein:

the predetermined specific image includes information related to copyright.

18. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 16, wherein:

the predetermined specific image includes information related to copyright.

19. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 15, wherein:

the predetermined specific image includes at least information indicating a photographer name or a photographing data/time.

20. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 16, wherein:

the predetermined specific image includes at least information indicating a photographer name or a photographing date/time.

21. (New) An image processing method for restoring an image comprising steps of:

obtaining the image file that is the JPEG file and is created in an electronic camera according to claim 15;

reading out the data of the processed image including the RST marker codes from the frame of the JPEG file;

reading out the encrypted data of the image portion from the application segment of the JPEG file;

obtaining the data of the image portion by decrypting the encrypted data of the image portion;

specifying the compressed data of the predetermined specific image in the data of the processed image based upon the RST marker codes included in the data of the processed image; and

writing the data of the image portion over the specified compressed data of the predetermined specific image.

22. (New) A computer-readable medium having an image processing program for restoring an image, the image processing program comprising instructions codes of:

obtaining the image file that is the JPEG file and is created in an electronic camera according to claim 15;

reading out the data of the processed image including the RST marker codes from the frame of the JPEG file;

reading out the encrypted data of the image portion from the application segment of the JPEG file;

obtaining the data of the image portion by decrypting the encrypted data of the image portion;

specifying the compressed data of the predetermined specific image in the data of the processed image based upon the RST marker codes included in the data of the processed image; and

writing the data of the image portion over the specified compressed data of the predetermined specific image.

23. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein:

the data insertion unit generates a semitransparent specific image as the predetermined specific image by adding pixels corresponding to the specific image and pixels corresponding to the image portion at the predetermined ratio, and writes data of the semitransparent specific image over the image plane range of the image data to generate the data of the processed image.

24. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 15, wherein:

the data insertion unit generates a semitransparent specific image as the predetermined specific image by adding pixels corresponding to the specific image and pixels corresponding to the image portion at a predetermined ratio, and writes data of the semitransparent specific image over the image plane range of the image data to generate the data of the processed image.

25. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 16, wherein:
the data insertion unit generates a semitransparent specific image as the predetermined specific image by adding pixels corresponding to the specific image and pixels corresponding to the image portion at a predetermined ratio, and writes data of the semitransparent specific image over the image plane range of the image data to generate the data of the processed image.